

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

and of John R. Rice

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20.

An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

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DALLAS, TEXAS, FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1937

Office: 201 East Tenth St., Phone 6-6888

"Please Explain Heb. 6:4-6"

So writes a Texas pastor. So many have made the same request that we give the Scripture and its interpretation here.

"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

"5. And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

"6. If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."

This is a discussion of the unpardonable sin. Notice the statement in verses 4 to 6, "For it is impossible for those . . . if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance." The sin mentioned here is unpardonable. But in Matthew 12:31 the Saviour plainly tells us that "All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men." There is only one unpardonable sin. It is the sin of a lost man who drives the Holy Spirit away so that he can never be convicted and converted.

Hebrews 6:4-6, therefore, is speaking of unsaved people. The context in the same chapter clearly proves that those who fall away

from enlightenment and commit this unpardonable sin are unsaved people. In verse 9 just below, the inspired writer says, "But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak." Paul says that verses 4-6 are not the things that accompany salvation. Those who were enlightened, tasted the Heavenly gift, were convicted by the Holy Ghost and then fell away were lost people—those things are not the things which accompany salvation. The things that accompany salvation are better things, verse 9 says.

One phrase in verse 4 has troubled many, "and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost." Some have thought that this meant they had been born of the Spirit or filled with the Spirit, but it does not say that nor mean that. In fact, in the marginal references of your Bible you will probably find that the word "partakers" is the Greek word *metochous*, which means "going along with." A better translation of that phrase would be, "and were accompanied by the Holy Ghost." The picture in verse 4 and 5 is of a lost man greatly enlightened and convicted. He has tasted but not eaten. The

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

You'd Never Drink If You Stopped To Think

Mrs. H. A. McCamy

You'd never drink
If you'd stop to think
Of the drunkard's face—
The vice and disgrace
Written there.

You'd never drink
If you'd stop and think
Of your loved one's shame
Who must bear your name
Everywhere.

Would you ever drink
If you'd stop and think
Of the bloated face
Which will soon deface
Manhood fair?

Could you stoop to drink
If you'd stop to think
Of honor at stake
And the hearts that must ache—
Your shame share?

But you never think,
You who love to drink,
Of your defamed name
And your loved one's shame—
Shame, their share.

No, you never think,
When you crave a drink,
Of eyes, skin and face
Nor loved one's disgrace—
Drink doesn't care.

"6 Reasons Why There Must Be A Hell"

Congratulations to Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Worth

Yesterday (Sunday, March 7th), Mrs. Elizabeth Ridgway who is business manager for *The Sword of the Lord* and my valuable assistant, spent the day visiting with Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, of which Brother C. E. Matthews is pastor. Mrs. Ridgway reports a wonderful day and in every way the church and pastor are to be congratulated. It was the dedication day for the new Educational Building. Already the church had a fine four-story Sunday School building, but this year they have built an additional building at the cost of approximately \$50,000.00 and have paid cash for it within a year! We are told that it is a beautiful building, in every way an honor to the cause of Christ, and we rejoice with our sister church.

The Sunday School in this fine Fort Worth church had present yesterday, 2,410 people! A truly re-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

There is a Hell. I can prove it to any intelligent person beyond a shadow of a doubt. I dare infidels to hear the Sunday night sermon when I prove from science, logic, from human experience, from conscience, and from the Bible the fact of eternal torment for impenitent sinners. The following six reasons or proofs will be given as to the fact and nature of Hell.

1. *The Scientific reason*; the law of compensation, of sowing and reaping, of action and reaction demands a Hell. (This is one of the strongest evidences. Students and doubters particularly need to hear it).

2. *The moral reason*; the moral nature of God demands a Hell. If there is a God who loves righteousness and hates sin, then sin must be punished.

3. *The cross reason*; unless there is a Hell to save sinners from, then the crucifixion of Christ was God's colossal blunder, was criminal stupidity. There was no need for the cross unless there is a Hell.

4. *The reason of impenitent, unregenerate hearts*. Sinners who die loving sin, choosing sin must have a place of sin, and companions in sin hereafter. There must be a Hell.

5. *The evidence of conscience*. In every human breast there is a conscience, divinely implanted, that warns of future punishment for sinners. The conscience of the whole race, could not be wrong. There must be a Hell.

6. *The testimony of the Bible*. The only Book that gives any evidence it is the divinely inspired Word of God declares repeatedly that there is a Hell of eternal torment for doomed men who reject Jesus Christ as their Saviour and die in sin.

Bring unsaved friends, come praying. May God convict and save.

"Just a few minutes of your most valuable time. I want to tell you what a blessing your messages in *The Sword of the Lord* have been to me. Someone has sent me the paper. May God bless them and the paper too."

(Signed) Mrs. J. A. C. Terrell, Texas

"HEAVEN"

BOOKS AGAIN

The other day a preacher's wife drove from Fort Worth to get from *The Sword Book Room* a *Young's Analytical Concordance*. Her father-in-law, our good friend, came with her and bought the book as a gift.

Look over the advertisement of Dr. Ironside's books in this issue. You are sure to find something that you want and need. Dr. Ironside's fidelity to the Scriptures, his clear and beautiful English, and his faithful and spiritual interpretation of the Scriptures makes him one of the most useful preachers and Bible teachers in America. He is a lovable soul, rich in character and anointed with the Spirit of God. If you buy one of his books, you will want many others.

From Menlo, Iowa, comes the following letter:

"My heart is being greatly blessed with your wonderful book, *The Coming Kingdom of Christ*. After I read it and study it through several times more, I'll loan it to others."

A Texas Baptist evangelist writes asking that a copy be sent to him by return mail; that he finds many pastors need help on this subject. The fourteen chapters of this book, *The Coming Kingdom of Christ*, are full of Scripture and open up some of the richest fields of study in the entire Bible. Preachers write that the book has enriched their preaching, has cleared up doubts, has proven the premillennial coming of Christ, the regathering and conversion of Israel and the literal Heaven upon earth. Beautifully bound in orange colored cloth, the book sells for \$1.00, plus 10c postage. In leatherette paper cover, the price is 60c, plus 10c postage. Write *The Sword Book Room*, 201 East Tenth St., Dallas, Texas.

1. Tradition, Instinct and the Cry of the Human Heart Are Backed Up by the Word of God.
2. Heaven A Real Place, A City With Walls, Foundations, Streets, Mansions. A River, Trees, Fruit, Leaves and Physical Bodies.
3. Heaven Where Jesus Is. Tears Wiped Away. No Sorrow or Dying. Old Things Passed Away.

(Sermon preached Sunday night, March 7, 1937, at Fundamental Baptist Tabernacle, by Pastor John R. Rice.)

I am going to speak to you tonight on Heaven. I will read you in Revelation the 21st and 22nd chapters, several verses in the two chapters. If you have your Bibles you may look on.

"1. And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

"2. And I, John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

"3. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

"4. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

"5. And he that sat upon the

throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

"6. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

"7. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

"8. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

I will skip a little bit. Then in the 22nd chapter, I read:

"And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

"2. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits; and yielded her fruit every month: and

the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

"3. And there shall be no more curse; but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:"

(We will not have all our work done. We will work some more.)

"And his servants shall serve him:

"4. And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

"5. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light; and they shall reign for ever and ever.

"6. And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

"7. Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book."

And now skip to the 14th verse:

"14. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

MORE HEAVEN NEXT WEEK

A preacher writes asking for the manuscript on the sermon on Heaven preached last Sunday night in Dallas. The interest, I believe, justifies printing the entire sermon with some corrections and additions in *The Sword of the Lord*. Part of it is printed in this issue. The remainder will come next week. Next week there will be the proof that we will know our loved ones in Heaven, that eventually Heaven will be on earth, and the way to Heaven made plain.

Tell your friends. See that those who have lost their loved ones, old people, shut-ins, and the sick get all of this sermon on Heaven in this week's and next week's paper.

“HEAVEN”

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

may enter in through the gates into the city.

"15. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

"16 I, Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David; and the bright and morning star.

"17. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

"18. For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

"19. And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

"20. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

"21. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

Heaven is a wonderful thought. There is a Heaven! Many arguments prove there is a Heaven. For one thing, every heathen religion in the world foretells a place of blessedness hereafter. The Indians on the American Continent believed that when men die here they go to a "happy hunting ground," at least if they were worthy. If you go among the Hindus you will find that they believe in Nirvana, a place of endless peace hereafter. Heathen rites, ceremonies, point toward and look toward a place of peace and rest and reward for the good in the next world. All heathen religions believe in a hereafter, a heaven for those who are righteous as well as a place of punishment for those who are not.

Then the instinct of man is the same about the fact that there is a Heaven. There is something in every man that says there must be a hereafter. There is something in a man that says he knows he will not die and be gone forever. There is more than that to us. I am not like a dog nor a horse. I cannot be content to lie down and go into a sleep that will mean oblivion. I cannot believe this body is all there is to me. I have an immortal soul. I know it. Instinctively I cannot believe there is no hereafter, no heaven, no hell. You do not either. There is something that cries out for the eternal.

You say, "But, Brother Rice, that is no argument for a hereafter. That is no argument for immortality."

The fundamental and essential needs that God forms in man, God supplies them. If you say there is no God, yet I remind you they are supplied. Someone attends to God's business if there is no God! When God made Adam, He said, "It is not good for man to be alone," so God made a woman. The sex instinct, the mating instinct, God made something to complement that. The man is for the woman and the woman for the man. God

gave the need and God supplied the need. There is something about the natural body that cries for food. Hunger. Where God gave hunger, God provided food—vegetable and meat diet. The body cries out for water, thirsts after water, the body needs water, so God provides water. The lungs, breathe, must have air. We are conscious of a need for breath and God provided breath. What the fundamental needs and instincts cry out for, God has supplied. So there must be a Heaven, an immortal place beyond the grave.

The Heart Cries For Heaven

That isn't all. Not only the teachings of men, not only heathen superstitions, not only our instincts, but also our hearts cry out that there is a heaven. I came, as you did perhaps, one day to stand by the grave of my mother. I was a little boy. My heart asked, would I ever see my mother again? Then after I was a grown man and a preacher, I stood by the grave of my father. I have many times said Goodbye to those I love. They were dear to me. Their lives had been a part of my life. In some way we were tied together, bound together. Is it true that I will never see them again? I cannot believe that! My heart cries out that there must be another place where there will be death no more. There must be a place where I will see my loved ones again, and see my friends, see my hopes and dreams be fulfilled. My heart cries out there must be a heaven. But thank God, we have better evidence than any of these I have given you. I believe there is as much outward evidence, as much human evidence, as much scientific evidence for heaven as any other great fact. I believe you could not refute it. There is too much evidence about the immortality of the soul, that intelligent people must believe in it. There is more evidence even outside the Bible than for most other matters people take for granted. There is too much proof to deny it, there has to be a Heaven.

But, thank God, we have a more sure word of prophecy that tells us about it. I say conscience may tell us, and our instinct and heart cry out for a place where we will fulfill our destiny, where longings will be satisfied, where we will meet our loved ones again: but best of all, the Lord Jesus Himself said, "I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Yes, Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions, and I am preparing a place for you and will come and get you. And where I am, there you may be also." We have the pure word of the Saviour Himself, the Son of God, and the abundant testimony of the Bible that there is a place called Heaven. Oh, thank God for that testimony!

I ask you to please consider with me for a time the Bible teaching on the question of Heaven.

Is there a Heaven? Yes, there is a Heaven. I want first to consider just the bare outline of Bible teaching. I cannot go into each detail as I would like to, but I will give you a bare outline of the Bible teaching.

The first clear reference to the literal city of Heaven I recall in Psalm 46. (I am thinking now of Heaven as a city. There are many things before this in the Bible that make clear there is an eternal blessedness for saved). The first clear reference that I recall to Heaven as a place, a literal place, as a city, is in the 46th Psalm.

"There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad THE CITY OF GOD."

Isn't that poetry, though? "There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God." There is a city of God! There is a city of God. Heaven is a real place.

After you come down into the New Testament there are many references to Heaven. In the 14th chapter of John the Saviour said,

"Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me.

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a

place for you."

"I go to prepare a place for you," a literal place. There is a real place, Heaven. Come into the book of Hebrews and there is the same teaching very clearly. Now in Hebrews the 11th chapter, we are told about Abraham that Abraham looked for Heaven. He was looking for a real, literal, physical city, for Heaven. In Hebrews 11, verses 8 to 10 say,

"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

"By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

"For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

Abraham was homesick for Heaven. Abraham dreamed and planned and meditated on the glories of the city, and he could live in a tent and be content though he was a millionaire because he knew one day he would land in a happy city, a real city, a city of God, a place, Heaven!

Again in Hebrews the 12th chapter is a very clear reference to Heaven. Verses 22 and 23.

"But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,

"To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect."

All right, there is a new city, a lovely city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the general assembly of the first-born will be gathered, all the saints, the church of God. That will be a wonderful time, won't it, when we meet together there. There is clear teaching on Heaven.

Then we come to Revelation. The book of Revelation tells first, in the first three chapters are about this church age. Then from chapter four through the eighteenth chapter, is the story of the tribulation time on earth. Then the 19th chapter is a picture of Christ coming back to reign. He will take away the saints in the 4th chapter, then in the 19th chapter we see Him coming riding on a white horse and the army following Him. The Battle of Armageddon takes place. The 20th chapter tells about the millennial reign on earth when Christ reigns here on earth, then at the end of that time after the great white throne judgment then we enter into the story of Heaven that I have read you here in chapters 21 and 22.

Heaven A Literal, Physical Place

I want you to notice here that there is a real place called Heaven. You say a place? Yes, I say a place, as physical as this ground, as literal as this platform. Houses—as much literal houses, made out of material, matter that we can feel and walk on, as literal as this house we are in now. So the Bible teaches. Let's consider some of the terms used in the Bible about Heaven. I want you to get it. Jesus said, "I go to prepare a PLACE for you." People have had an idea about Heaven, that saints are floating around, ghostly spirits out in space, wandering around. That is not Heaven. Heaven is a place. Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you." A real place, a prepared place. Now places need preparing. Out in space the emptiness does not need preparing.

If when a young man gets married he just takes his wife in a flivver with no home and just lives out on the highway, he never need to prepare any place. If when Jesus comes for His bride—and we are to be His bride—if Jesus just takes us up to float around, sing, wander around in space, all spiritual anyway, all a part of a general whole, if the person in a sense ceases to be, passes out of existence, with no individual personality there wouldn't be a need for

a place. But the Lord Jesus said, "I am going to get a place ready for you." Just like when a young man marries a bride, he first has the house, furniture, new paper on the walls; everything fixed up just right, then he brings his bride to that place. Just that literal is Heaven, a place, a real place that Jesus is making. That is what Jesus is doing. It is as literal as the creative work when He made this first world, the garden of Eden. I remind you He said a place.

A Literal City With Mansions or Houses, Streets, Foundations, Gates, A River, Trees, Leaves, Fruit

And it is not only a place. But notice these other terms that are used: "In my Father's house," "A house." I can't believe it is a house. But the Bible says it is a house.

There are more of those terms. "In my Father's house are many mansions." By a mansion you mean a fine, beautiful building. The term indicates riches, indicates luxury. It indicates labor. It indicates expenditure, invested money, plans, a skillfully prepared place, and that is what Heaven is, a place with mansions in it, a literal place with mansions in it.

That isn't all. It is called a city. If the souls of people that have died are ever to go to heaven, if bodies are never to rise, if your souls do not go to a real, literal place, but float around in the air, that would not be called a city. Do you know the difference in a city and the country? A city has houses and paved streets. A city has gas lines, and water lines, and organization and traffic lights. A

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Congratulations to —

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markable figure. Although Travis Avenue is a comparatively young church and not in the downtown district, it has one of the largest Sunday Schools in the world.

Travis Avenue Baptist Church is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention but it should be known that Brother Matthews is a sincere believer in all the Bible, a Premillennialist, and a great soul winner. He has great revivals in his own church and is in great demand for revival services elsewhere. He and this editor were in the Seminary together. It was my joy later to often attend his services.

The New Sunday School building makes seating room for an attendance of 4,000 in Sunday School. May the dear Lord see fit to honor the ministry of this pastor and church and their fine workers with increased attendances, with earnest, God-honoring teaching of the Bible and many souls saved.

Mrs. Ridgway was greatly pleased that her sister, Mrs. O. C. Ellis, who teaches a class of adults, had 175 present Sunday.

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THE SWORD OF THE LORD and of John R. Rice

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JOHN R. RICE, EDITOR, Pastor of Fundamental Baptist Church

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'HEAVEN'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

city has buildings. A city is a prepared place. The open country is not a prepared place the same. Now then Heaven is a city.

We use a lot of terms we don't know about, we just guess at it. I got to thinking about the terms "the general judgment" and "the general resurrection." Now let's see, what part of the Bible is that? I couldn't find it, so I got my concordance and looked in there. Not one time. There is nothing in the Bible about a general resurrection. It doesn't say anything about it. I thought, "I know I have heard it somewhere. Where is it?" And I never did find out until I went to the next Masonic funeral. They were talking about something that was not mentioned in the Bible. As the farmer said when he first saw the giraffe, "There ain't no such an animal." There is not any general resurrection. There are two resurrections, the saved first, and a thousand years later the lost, the one to one destiny, the other to another destiny altogether different.

So I thought, "Is heaven a reality?" Now we had better find out. We have been talking about "the city foursquare," that wonderful city, and "The Holy City." I just began to look for Scriptures that call heaven a city. Oh, yes, Abraham had "looked for a city that hath foundations," a city that needs to be made and builded. A city. I looked over here in Psalm 46:4 which says, "There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God." The city, the city of God. I looked in Revelation and saw "the holy city, new Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." A city! Heaven is a place. Heaven is a prepared place. Heaven is a physical place, as literal, prepared and builded as any city, but this by the hands of the Lord Jesus Himself. "I go to prepare you a place."

Not only is that a real place, it is not only a city, not only mansions, but it is a place that has foundations. Now I want you to notice this, if you just floated around in the air, you wouldn't need foundations under you. Do you know why I have such good foundations? (Holds out foot) Because I weigh enough that I have got to have something solid to stand on. If we were put in Heaven without any weight, without any bodies, without any houses, put in a Heaven without any walls, put in a Heaven with no trees, put in a Heaven without any material substances, we wouldn't need foundations. But if you build a house that weighs anything, you must have a foundation, and if you make it out of brick, you had better put a good one, a masonry house needs a good foundation. That is the reason Heaven has to have such good foundation, because it is a real, physical place, with weight, and substance and mass and matter. But Heaven is a place, so it takes foundations for a heaven of this kind. "He looked for a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God."

We have a terrible way of explaining away the Bible. It says a city, but we don't believe it. It says foundations, but we don't believe that. We think we will just float around. Get away from that idea and think of Heaven as a place as literal as the Garden of Eden, as literal as this place here, but happier, without any sin, without disappointments, without its partings, its death. Heaven is a place, prepared place with houses, mansions, a place with foundations.

What else about Heaven? It has streets. I told you it was a city. If we were just running around in the air we wouldn't need any streets. What if we saw a street up in the air with no automobiles on it, nobody walking on it? We have to have foundations for this place. Did you know that gold is one of the heaviest metals in the world? Streets paved with gold would take sure enough foundations to hold us and the houses and the streets of gold. They will be like transparent pure glass for purity. The city has foundations. It has streets! It has gates. It has a wall! It has a river! It has trees! Yes, praise be to God, that is a real place. Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place" and He is

building a place. Isn't it wonderful to know that Heaven is a real place? Thank God for that!

I wonder if you ever thought about it. There are trees. And the trees have leaves and fruit. The walls and foundations and streets and mansions show it is a place, a real heaven.

Physical Bodies In Heaven

I want you to notice this other thing. There are physical bodies in that Heaven.

Thank God, one of these days the saints of God, with human bodies, with eyes, and ears and teeth and bones and flesh and hands and feet and hair with literal bodies, human bodies, physical bodies, glorified but still human, spiritual but still material, bodies are going to be in Heaven. Right now, if you were in Heaven you could run around there and see people. You could shake hands with people. I don't know whether you would stop at shaking hands. If I saw Enoch, I think I would hug him around the neck. If I saw Elijah (he went to heaven in a whirlwind and chariot of fire with his physical body), I think I would do more than shake hands with old Elijah. Praise be to God, I would see him today in heaven, with a physical body. Elijah with a physical body is in heaven. He didn't die. His body was changed on the way up, God got it all ready. All ready for the angel's food, all ready for the music of Heaven, ready for the company of the Lord! There are some physical bodies in Heaven now. Elijah has one, and Enoch has another. And not only that, the Lord Jesus Christ has a physical body. The old devil is keen. He tries to keep us from realizing that Jesus really died, and then he tries to keep us from believing that Jesus really arose from the dead. When He came out of the grave, there was no body there. Jesus came out. The body came out, the hands and feet and head and flesh and bones. Jesus' body didn't stay in the grave. It came out. The physical body of Jesus came out. Nothing was left in Joseph's new tomb. It was empty. The resurrection of Jesus was a physical resurrection.

You say, "Brother Rice, it was a spiritual body." Yes, I know it was a spiritual body, but it was the same body. It was made out of the same material. "It is sown a mortal body, it is raised a spiritual body." Both "it's" in that verse refer to the same body. The same one that is sown is the same one that is raised. The same one that dies is the same one that lives. The one is made over into a new body, a glorified body.

And God will do the same thing for this earth. This earth, this old earth is cursed by sin. This earth has brambles and thorns and thistles, and pests now. But God will purge this old earth by fire one day, and with these ashes, these melted elements, God will form a new earth, but the same earth, the same earth. God will make it over and make it new and it will be a new earth. So one day this body, if Jesus comes He will take it to meet Him, to be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. If I die before He comes, this body may crumble back to dust, but God will raise this body up. That grave will fall down empty. There will be a hole in the ground where I came out. I mean there will be a physical resurrection of literal, physical bodies.

When Jesus arose from the dead the people didn't believe it. Thomas said, "No, I don't believe it." "But," they said, "He was right here. We saw Him and talked with Him." "You were just fooled," Thomas said, "that was a ghost or a hallucination. I don't believe it. Until I put my hands in those places where they drove the nails, and put my hand in the side where the spear went, I will not believe it! Not until I have proof for myself."

A week later Jesus came and said, "Thomas, put your finger in these scars and see. Put your hand in my side and feel where the spear went in. See for yourself." He said, "A spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see me have." And old Thomas fell down on his face and said, "My Lord, and my God!" He was convinced! It was the physical body, the literal

God Prospering The Fundamentalist Baptist Tabernacle

Our friends will be glad to know that God is being very good to the Fundamentalist Baptist Tabernacle in Dallas these days. We keep making improvements on the church building. February 1st we started to raise \$900.00 in six weeks to finish painting doors, windows, and window frames inside and out in the whole building, to put in drains for storm waters from the downspouts out to Tenth Street, to build several Sunday School rooms, to build a large fireproof vault for valuable records, etc., and to pay in advance the next payment on our lot.

It will be remembered that our building program has been constantly carried on for cash and that we owe nothing on the building itself. Our lot cost \$5,250 and of that, \$4,000 has already been paid, plus interest. On May 26, another semi-annual payment of \$500 plus interest would be due. We are paying that ahead of time so as to proceed with some improvements. Already \$250.00 cash has been paid, and we believe the balance can be sent in the next week or so. We praise the Lord for His goodness.

The offerings last Sunday, with no pledge cards, no budget, no private solicitation or personal canvass of any kind, was \$277.00.

The Sunday School, too, is growing steadily. Last Sunday the attendance was 480. That is not a world record, not as much as we ought to have, but it is next to the highest attendance the church has had, I believe, and it is steadily mounting. We are getting additional teachers, training those we have, and perfecting the organization. We expect a steady growth. The pastor's class had 215 adults, and our lesson from Isaiah was very happy.

Naturally we have much larger attendance Sunday night than Sunday morning, and we are happy that people come from all over Dallas and some each Sunday from nearby towns and cities for our Sunday night evangelistic services.

When you consider that this is a young church, only a little over four years old, that we started with practically no trained workers, that we are barely beginning to get Sunday School equipment with separate class rooms, assembly room, separate chairs, etc., it is well understood how we should be grateful.

Besides, our church is in the midst of a large group of churches. There are four churches within one block. One of these, the Cliff Temple Baptist Church, is next to the largest church in the Southern Baptist Convention, and has a regular Sunday School attendance of over 2,000.

We praise the Lord for His continued blessings upon us, for the peace and fellowship in our church, for the souls saved. We need a great revival and trust the Lord will help us to have it.

"A friend sent me The Sword of the Lord for one year. My subscription is about out and I want a renewal. I am sending three other names with my own."

"Your message on the Holy Spirit was fine. Let me say that I have been blessed greatly by your paper." "Mrs. J. W. S. —" Austin, Texas.

body, with bones and flesh and hands and feet and eyes and ears and hair and the lovely features of the Saviour! I say Jesus arose with a physical body from the grave. He said to the still wondering disciples, "Have you anything here to eat?" They said they had some broiled fish and some honeycomb. "That is fine. Bring it out," Jesus said. They all sat around and watched the Lord Jesus Christ that came out of Joseph's new tomb, that same body. They saw the hands with nail scars take a bit of fish. They saw Him take a piece of fish and take the bones out and eat it. They saw Him put it in that physical mouth and chew it with physical teeth and swallow it to go to a physical stomach. He ate that broiled fish and honeycomb before them. And that physical body of Jesus is now in heaven.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

'Please Explain —'

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Holy Spirit goes along, pricking his conscience and convicting him of sin but the sinner does not yield. This greatly enlightened sinner who has tasted of the Heavenly gift, has been accompanied and convicted by the Holy Ghost and has tasted even of the Bible and gotten the glimpse of the powers of the world to come, if he then commits the unpardonable sin which constitutes a final and clear rejection of Christ, driving away the Holy Spirit, he can never be brought back to the place where he might repent.

Remember that the book of Hebrews is addressed to Jews. They, the Jews, with their forms and ceremonies which produced so many Pharisees, were particularly liable to commit the unpardonable sin. They had greater spiritual enlightenment, they made much of the Word of God. When they rejected Christ, Jews were in greater danger. Among Gentiles the man who knows the Word of God has had greater opportunities, and has been more convicted of his sins, is the man most likely to commit the unpardonable sin.

A little consideration will show that a child of God could not commit the unpardonable sin since his sins are already all pardoned! The Scriptures teach that a child of God is already forgiven all of his sins, that sin cannot be charged up against the Christian's soul. "Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin" (Rom. 4:7, 8). Since every sin a Christian ever has committed or will commit has been settled for on the cross of Christ, then it would be impossible for a child of God to commit an unpardonable sin. A Christian may lose fellowship with God, may bring upon himself terrible chastening for his sins. But the only way that God can deal with a Christian on the sin question is to deal with him as His child. The self-righteous, enlightened Hebrew, convicted by the Holy Spirit, acquainted with the Word of God, might commit the unpardonable sin and forever lose the possibility of repentance, but a child of God whose sins are already paid for, whose nature is already changed, has entered into the family of God and cannot lose that blood-bought privilege!

About the safety of the child of God the Scripture says that he "shall not come into condemnation: but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24), that "I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:28), "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God" (Rom. 8:38, 39).

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“HEAVEN”

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

A lot of preachers say our bodies will have flesh and bones, but no blood. But these bodies will have fluid in them. Jesus ate honey. That is liquid. Jesus said Himself about grapejuice, “I will not drink it until I drink it new with you in the kingdom of my Father.” Jesus will be drinking grapejuice and the rest of us will. My friends, this body will have the normal functions of a physical body to eat and digest, to see and hear, a literal, physical body in Heaven. Jesus is there now with that kind of a body. Heaven is a real place, thank God, Heaven is a real place!

I am glad God told us about it. You say, “It looks like it is awfully dreamy.” It is not dreamy to me. It is as real to me as any other place I never saw. There are a lot of places I never saw, but thank God, I know about Heaven. It is a real place, a literal, physical place, is Heaven. Praise the Lord for a place where my Saviour is.

Here at the Fundamental Baptist Tabernacle we plan to get a little more money and we will put in a floor and ceiling and put in partitions. So it is in heaven. The Lord Jesus Christ created it. With a word He could bring it into existence. But He is preparing it now. He is having the finest time. He is like a bridegroom fitting out his house for his sweetheart who is to marry him. The Lord Jesus is fitting out mansions in Heaven for us who are His saints and His bride. He is preparing a place for them that love Him, and it is an actual, physical, literal, real place in Heaven.

The Joys of Heaven: We Will See God

What kind of a place is Heaven anyway? I am glad the Lord tells us about the nature of it, not only that it is a place, but the spiritual nature of it, and what goes on there. I am glad it is told here.

“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.”

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away.”

What kind of a place? It will be first, a place where God is. I am going to see the Lord God. The Bible says that man cannot see God and live. None of us are fit to see God now. We are carnal, evil. The people couldn't even look on the face of Moses when he came down off the mountain where he had been so close to God for forty days and nights. He had to put a veil over his face, when he had been so near to God. These blinded eyes couldn't look on the face of God and live. But the Bible says, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” Oh, one good day my heart will be made pure, and made fit to see Him, and I will see Him. I do not wonder that Job, in the midst of his trials and sorrows said, “I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.” Oh, my friends, one day I shall see God! The pure in heart shall see God and they that hunger and thirst after righteousness shall be filled. They that mourn shall be comforted in that good day. Thank God, I am going where God is. The Lord God will be their God and His tabernacles shall be with men. Won't it be great? One day all the longings of my heart to be fulfilled in Him, the Lord God, the Creator of Heaven and earth. That isn't all, Jesus will be there, too. Our colored people have a way of singing it, and we ought to sing it, too

“I'm goin' to meet my blessed Saviour,
“I'm goin' to meet my blessed Saviour one of these days,
Hallelujah!

“I'm goin' to meet my blessed Saviour,
“I'm goin' to meet my blessed Saviour,
One of these days.”

Amen. And so am I, Brother. I can rejoice and shout just as much when I get there. I am going to see Jesus. Praise the Lord, I will be there.

Heaven Is Where Jesus Is

The thief on the cross didn't have much background to expect to get to Heaven. He had lived a terribly wicked life. He was dying on the cross for his sins. Yet Jesus turned to him and said, “To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise.” I am glad He said, “With Me.” It wouldn't have been paradise without it. I think that thief dying, gasping for breath and begging Jesus to remember him would have been afraid to die if Jesus had said, “You are going to paradise.” That wouldn't be enough. Jesus said, “You are going to be With Me in paradise.” One day I will be with Jesus. My mother saw Jesus when she died. She said so. We will be where He is. I have thought many times, many, many times, how glad I would be if some way I could only walk up to Him and tell Him, “I am so sorry, so sorry I have sinned,” tell Him how I love Him and hear Him say He loved me and died for me. I want to see Him and speak in His physical ears and hold onto His hands or kiss His feet. I want to see Jesus, don't you?

Oh, my friends, the very thing I want to do is to see Jesus, and I will, thank God! And Jesus said, I have gone to prepare a place for you, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am, there ye may be also.”

Then when talking about the second coming, Paul says, “Now, brethren, I don't want you to be sorrowing like the people who have no hope. This is what to tell them. “The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout and with the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet shall sound and the dead in Christ shall be raised and we shall be changed and caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” Oh, praise to His name. I don't care where He goes, it will be Heaven where Jesus is. Yes, I will have Heaven when I have Him, and His smile, and His wisdom, and His holiness, and His goodness, and love and mercy and His righteousness! That will be Heaven. I will see Jesus, and that will be Heaven!

No Sorrow in God's Tomorrow

What other things about Heaven? Well, let's see, the Scripture said, “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.” Oh, my friends, I thank God that one day all sorrow and sighing will be over. I got a letter this week that touched my heart, from Detroit, Michigan. I was glad to have it. First, it was a mighty good letter. Another reason, he sent \$25.00 to help carry on the gospel work. If anybody else wants to make me feel good, give me \$25.00 to help buy groceries and pay rent for all this bunch of girls and help keep the gospel like that. But another thing about that good letter, he said, “Brother Rice, I long to see you. Thank God, one of these days we will be where there are no partings.” Won't that be fine? Won't it be fine when God Himself sits down and takes plenty of time—(it would take an awfully big handkerchief)—God will wipe away all tears. I will get in line. I could almost cry some more tears for the fun of having them wiped away by the Lord God Himself. I will rejoice that I have had burdens. I will rejoice that I have been sometimes tempted even, if the Lord Himself will take time to wipe away all my tears. That is the kind of place Heaven is going to be. I want you to go there. When God Himself shall wipe away all tears, that is going to be a wonderful time, isn't it?

There Will Be No More Death

And He said there will be no more death. This past week I had a funeral here. We buried the body of Brother Warren who died with tuberculosis. I said all the words

of comfort I could to the family. Then at last the loved ones came by. The daughter said, weeping, “Oh daddy, are you going to leave me? And I thought you would get well!” They led her away and took the body to Waxahachie and buried it. But thank God, there will be no more death in heaven! One day there will be no more death! Won't that be fine? That is the kind of place that Heaven is going to be.

The next verse says, “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away.”

I said at that funeral, “I will be getting news, good news in heaven. Now we hear news of death. A woman called the other day and said old Mother Berry fell and broke her hip and she is out at Parkland Hospital. (She has since gone to heaven). That is sad news. One day there won't be anybody to come and bring word of death.”

A young man brought word that his neighbor was hit by a car over here on Jefferson street and killed. Won't it be fine when there is no more sorrow and no more crying? Won't that be fine? That will be a good time, won't it, and there will be no more pain, for the former things will be passed away.

You know, I am about ready to say good-bye to this old world. You can take your old world with its poverty, with its sickness. This old world can go. There are too many hospitals for me, too many grave yards for me. This old world has too many strikes for me, too many wars, too many sorrows, too many broken friendships, too many divorced homes, too many with eyes failing, too many people with ears getting where they can't hear. There are too many out of work, too many people that can't pay their bills.

One day we will say, “Good-bye old world, I am going to a place where all will be made new, new start. Each will have a new sheet of paper to start out anew. Our purity, holiness, righteousness, will not fall then. We have failed here. People won't have homes disrupted by sorrow, broken by sin, when we get to the place where old things are passed away.

I want Brother Stroh to play for me. It won't be the same in Heaven as it is here. Now listen as I sing:

“There's no disappointment in Heaven,
No weariness, sorrow, nor pain;
No hearts that are bleeding and broken,
No song with a minor refrain;
The clouds of our earthly horizon
Will never appear in the sky,
For all will be sunshine and gladness,
With never a sob nor a sigh.”

Won't that be good in those days? Old things will be passed away and all things are made new!

“We'll never pay rent for our mansion,

The taxes will never come due;
Our garments will never grow threadbare,

But always be fadeless and new;
We'll never be hungry nor thirsty,
Nor languish in poverty there,
For all the rich bounties of heaven:
His sanctified children will share

Chorus: (Brother Stroh joins in)

“I'm bound for that beautiful city
My Lord has prepared for His own;

Where all the redeemed of all ages
Sing ‘Glory’ around the white throne;
Sometimes I grow homesick for heaven,
And the glories I there shall behold;

What a joy that will be when my Saviour I see,
In that beautiful city of gold!”

Have you lost a loved one?
Did death come in at the door?
Was sorrow and parting yours?
Listen then.

“There'll never be crepe on the doorknob,

No funeral train in the sky;
No graves on the hillsides of glory,
For there we shall never more die;

The old will be young there forever,
Transformed in a moment of time;
Immortal we'll stand in His likeness
The stars and the sun to out-shine.”

Brother, I am going! Thank God, I am going to be there when the old things will be passed away and sorrow and sighing shall be no more and there is no more pain, no more dying, and God Himself will make all thing new. That is the kind of a place Heaven is and I am going. I am going, thank God!

(Mother Waugh: “Yes; and I am too, thank God!”)
That is the kind of a place Heaven is!

(Continued next week)

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